

FEB 09 2007

Application No. 10/696,104
Reply to Office Action of January 11, 2007

Docket No.: 90040-104774

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are canceled and no claims have been amended. New claims 21-40 have been added and accordingly, claims 21-40 remain under prosecution in this application. No new matter has been added to this application.

Claim Objections

Claim 17 was objected to because the recitation of "the method according to claim 1" was incorrect inasmuch as claim 1 was not a method claim. All method claims have been canceled (including method claim 17), and accordingly, this claim objection is overcome.

35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 6, 12, and 17 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Boksjø et al in view of Goodman. New claim 21 has been added. New claim 21 includes, amongst other elements, a series circuit including a resistor with a diode and a spark gap discharge device. Neither Boksjø et al or Goodman teach or suggest a spark gap discharge device, a diode, and a resistor all connected in series. Accordingly, for this reason alone, claim 21 and its dependent claims are not made obvious by Boksjø et al in view of Goodman.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 13, 14, 18 and 19 are rejected under Boksjø et al in view of Goodman and in view Dibble. Dibble has been cited by the Examiner because it discloses a spark gap circuit comprising a resistance R1 in series with a diode D1 and a spark gap 13. Claim 21 requires, amongst other features, that the spark gap discharge device, diode and resistor are all connected in series to form a "protective discharge means" for protectively discharging electrical energy. . . . Even, assuming, arguendo, that Dibble teaches all that the Examiner purports it to teach, it still falls short of teaching a "protective discharge means". Specifically, there is no teaching or suggestion in Dibble that the resistance R1, diode D1, and spark gap 13 function as a "protective discharge means" to protect any component from destructively high voltage levels. Accordingly, even if Dibble does teach or suggest everything that the Examiner purports, there is no motivation to combine it with either Boksjø et al or Goodman because the circuit of Dibble is not the claimed protective discharge means but rather it is a circuit in an engine ignition system for creating engine spark.

New claim 33 has been added. New claim 33 includes amongst other limitations, an inductive device, a spark gap, a diode, and a power supply that are interconnected such that the

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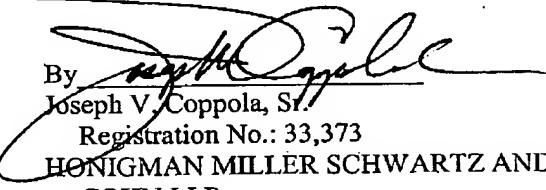
inductive device is operable to either be energized by the power supply so that the diode is reversed - biased to prevent current flow through the inductive discharge device, and energized so that the diode is forward-biased to permit energy stored by the inductive discharge device to be discharged by the spark gap when the inductive device sees an open circuit across the power supply. None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention set forth in claim 33 and accordingly claim 33 and its dependent claims (claims 34-40) are believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claims 21-40 for the reason set forth above. Any fee due with the filing of this paper is identified in the attached amendment transmittal. However, if any additional fees are due with the filing of this paper, deposit account no. 50-3145 may be used from which account the undersigned is authorized to withdraw.

Dated: *February 9, 2007*

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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